

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer an amendment to the pending bill for Senators WELLSTONE and MOSELEY-BRAUN, the text of which restores the LIHEAP funding, adds back \$5.5 billion for insurance counseling, \$35 billion for education, and restores \$272 million for Job Training Partnership, and that there be 10 minutes for debate divided between Senators WELLSTONE and MOSELEY-BRAUN, at the conclusion of which time the Senate will proceed to vote; that the bill then be advanced to third reading, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object. First of all, let me, one more time, make it crystal clear, Mr. President, that I have an objection to the characterization of discovering on Friday that you can stall. I have been working on the Low-income Housing Energy Assistance Program for a long, long time, as each of my colleagues knows. This is a critically important issue to some of the most vulnerable citizens in my State of Minnesota, a cold weather State.

Second of all, Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to make it very clear that when it comes to assistance for California and Oklahoma City, in no way, shape, or form do I intend to be held hostage to that, Mr. President. We are all for that.

Mr. DOLE. I call for the regular order, Mr. President.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President—

Mr. DOLE. Regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DOLE. I call for the regular order.

COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY REFORM ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the underlying pending business.

A bill (S. 343) to reform the regulatory process, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. DOLE. I advise Members that there will be no more votes today. We are back on regulatory reform.

I have been given the authority by a majority of members of the Judiciary Committee and the Governmental Affairs Committee to withdraw the committee reported amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendments are withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 1487

(Purpose: To provide a substitute)

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I send a substitute amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE], for himself, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROTH, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOND, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BROWN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. KYL, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GRAMS, and Mr. LOTT, proposes an amendment numbered 1487.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, this will be the text which will be amended on Monday, July 10. There will be two amendments. There will be votes, starting at 5 o'clock on Monday.

THE RESCISSIONS BILL

Mr. DOLE. Let me again state this, so there will not be any misunderstanding by the Senators from Illinois and Minnesota.

The next time we bring up the rescissions bill it will be by a unanimous-consent agreement, without any amendments, and with very little debate. They can continue to frustrate this Senate on a Friday afternoon all year long. That is fine with me, because I have to be here anyway.

I think they are doing a disservice to hundreds of thousands of people across America to make a political point. They have that right. Everybody makes political points on the Senate floor. And to say they are not making a political point, I think, would be a stretch.

Where was all the debate when the conference report was passed? Where has been all the concern in the last few days? These Senators know, as well, that this has been undergoing intense scrutiny with the White House, the Democratic and Republican leadership, and they finally got together. The President says pass it. I read his statements a couple of times, the statement of the administration.

Two Senators can frustrate anything. It is too late to file cloture; it is Friday afternoon, which they knew. But that is their right. I do not want to take any rights away from anybody. The day may come when they are trying to pass something on a Friday and somebody will jump up and say they cannot do this. That is the way it goes from time to time.

So I am disappointed. I apologize that we could not pass this bill. I apologize to the many people who will be suffering in the interim because of the efforts by our colleagues. But I cannot change that. They have every right to do what they have done. They objected to the immediate consideration.

Apparently, they did not really want to vote on the amendments in the first place. They had a chance to have a vote on all the amendments. We could have had a vote, but after 3 hours of wasted time, they did not want to vote and they objected. They have that right.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. DOLE. I object.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. DOLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I have a question that I would like to propound, unless the—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator cannot conduct debate.

Mr. DOLE. You cannot do that.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. I cannot ask a question because you will not allow the quorum call to be called off.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The only question in order is to ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. I understand that. The majority leader objected to that, so I cannot get to my question of the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator cannot proceed.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. I was just checking. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will continue to call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, is there any way to inquire—

Mr. DOLE. Regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The only thing in order is for the Senator to ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Is there any way to find out when the majority leader will not object to the quorum call order being rescinded?

Mr. DOLE. Regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is violating the rules of debate. She cannot speak unless the quorum call is rescinded.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. I understand, but I was trying to propound a question to the Chair. I ask that the quorum call—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator cannot proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will continue to call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, now?